

available to individuals. The Republican Congress has an opportunity not only to address these issues now during the lame duck, but will also be uniquely positioned during the 115th Congress to make good faith efforts and bring about real reform across our country.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues to demand that the Republican Leadership do its job and prioritize the needs of the American people.

The criminal justice system is desperately in need of reform, gun violence has become an epidemic problem in America, the FY2017 Omnibus is inexcusably incomplete and the American vote is still not protected.

I have only begun to name the extensive amount of work that has been left undone by the Republican Leadership and the American people are suffering because of it. The people of this country who rely on this Congress to fight for them will continue to suffer because of the inaction, indifference and insolence of the Republican Party.

Congress has repeatedly failed to pass legislation to help make the citizens of this country feel safe from violence and secure in their rights and liberties. We need greater investment in higher education and our HBCUs. We need more anti-poverty programs and we need to address the problems of the rise of drug costs and access to healthcare facilities.

There is simply too much incomplete work that cannot be ignored. There has been too much suffering, sadness, blood and tears—and we need action now.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, “The time is always right to do what is right.” Now is the time to take action to unite as one great nation and work together to secure liberty and justice for all Americans. Unfinished business cannot become “business as usual.”

REMEMBERING THE LATE, HONORABLE STEVE LATOURETTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor our late colleague Steve LaTourette, who served in this body for 18 years, and who, sadly, passed away after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. He died on August 3. Steve will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure and the honor to work with him and to know him.

Steve and I were elected to Congress together in 1994 as part of the Republican Revolution, or so it was called in those days. It was the year of the Contract with America. We were two of the four Republicans from Ohio who were

first elected that year. The other two were Frank Cremeans, who has also passed away a number of years ago, and Bob Ney. Steve and I served the longest and worked here together for 16 years, and over that time we became good friends.

While Steve was an esteemed colleague, respected by both sides of the aisle, I will always remember him as one of those people who was truly a great person on a human level. He had a gregarious personality, a very wry sense of humor, and he shared it with us many times, those of us in this body, again on both sides of the aisle. We are a better institution because Steve LaTourette served here among us. He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Steve LaTourette had the rather endearing ability to take his job and his responsibilities very seriously while at the same time poking fun at himself. Perhaps most importantly, I think Steve will be remembered because of how much he believed in bipartisanship. He truly did not care which party you belonged to. If you had a good idea, he would support it, and he would get into the trenches with you and fight to get that idea enacted into law.

Sadly, it was the lack of bipartisanship that affected his decision to retire back in 2012. In his parting speech on this floor, he said:

For a long time now, words like “compromise” have been considered to be dirty words. I have always believed that the art of being a legislator is finding common ground.

When Members from both sides of the aisle paid tribute to him upon his departure, The Plain Dealer reported that Steve, in his characteristic humor, joked that it was fitting that bipartisanship would only break out when he had decided to leave. I hope that Steve is looking down on us here this evening so that he will know that he has truly brought us together in a bipartisan manner because we have a number of our colleagues here on the other side of the aisle who would also like to speak in his memory and in his honor.

I hope that we make Steve proud here this evening when he sees the bipartisanship that is going to be taking place on this floor, and maybe, just maybe, we can bring a little of this bipartisan spirit with us into the next Congress. We could certainly use it, considering the challenges that this institution and we as a nation face after a very divisive—let's face it, very divisive—election where about half the people were ecstatic and about half the people are very depressed right now.

So it is certainly a time for us to come together. It is going to be a little bit tougher to come together because Steve is not with us, but we can keep in mind what he would have done, what he would have said, and how he could have brought us together. So I think it is fitting that we join together in a bipartisan manner in this tribute to our former colleague Steve LaTourette this evening.

I would like to yield at this time to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the longest serving Member from the Ohio delegation.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHABOT for yielding. It is really a pleasure to be here with him this evening and to pay tribute to a wonderful, wonderful Congressman, Steve LaTourette, from the great State of Ohio.

Obviously, we return here this evening to Congress following an election in which new depths of feverish partisanship were reached in the country, and I feel humbled to speak in tribute to our late Republican colleague and friend, Ohio Congressman Steve LaTourette.

He was a lawyer's lawyer. He was very, very intelligent and a very effective lawmaker, and he remained a loyal Republican. But at the same time, he exemplified, as Congressman CHABOT has said, the importance of compromise and negotiation to the political process for the sake of the Republic and the American people.

He always prioritized his constituents over partisan concerns, and he built alliances with House Members of all stripes in pursuit of the common good. He always conducted himself with a warm smile and a witty manner throughout, and he always had a good word. I remember how he sort of looked at you from above his glasses when he would get out of a committee meeting, always with a broad smile.

It was an honor and a privilege to have served for so many years in the same Ohio delegation as Steve. He exhibited so much love for our State and endeavored to help all Ohioans, even those not in his constituency. In many ways, he was not just a representative for the 19th and then the 14th District of Ohio, but a representative for all of Ohio, as he effectively worked on our Committee on Appropriations.

One of my fondest passions has been to champion the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that focuses on the Great Lakes region, and it often brought us together to work to promote investment in the world's largest freshwater ecosystem, with 95 percent of our Nation's freshwater and serving over 30 million Americans; 1½ million jobs, and \$62 billion in wages are generated in this Great Lakes nation each year. Steve understood the immense environmental and economic importance of the Great Lakes to the region and our Nation because he came from northern Ohio. It was a real pleasure to work with Steve to champion our Great Lakes issues.

I recall on another front, in 2005, following cuts to the Pentagon's budget, it was announced that 1,200 jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in the Federal office building in Cleveland, Ohio, were to be cut and shipped out to Indianapolis. Steve was able not only to successfully lobby the Defense Department to preserve the jobs, but with his greatchutzpah, he

secured an expansion of the office's size by over 600 jobs the following year. Many of those employees are now my constituents, and I know they retain, as I do, a deep gratitude for Steve's vital intervention. He put the same type of effort into so many projects: the Inner Belt Bridge in Cleveland, the Port of Cleveland, and so much more in northeastern Ohio and throughout our State.

These local examples are demonstrative of the ideals and goals that motivated Steve in the wider, national political context, prioritizing the public interest and working with anyone and everyone to get things done. The list is extensive. Steve was one of just seven Republicans to vote against stripping the National Public Radio of all public funding. He had courage. He advocated for a mixed and pragmatic approach to deficit reduction. He blocked legislation aimed at weakening worker protection, and he voted in favor of an increase in unemployment benefits as the Great Recession began to bite. The list goes on.

He was a loyal Republican, but he also represented his region. Yet Steve was critical and, frankly, heartsick about the stark political divide now found in the House and also of the tone in which that divide and debate is conducted. I was filled with an immense sense of regret and sadness upon his decision not to seek reelection in 2012, especially because of his reason. He had "reached the conclusion that the atmosphere" in the House "no longer encourages the finding of common ground."

His comments remain highly resonant today: If this Chamber was not able to create a space and forge an environment in which Representative LaTourette felt able to serve, then how can we expect to pursue the public good to help the people of this great Nation? Steve's tragic and courageous death must serve as a calling to us all to constantly recall America's promises and for what purpose we serve in this great House.

When Steve passed away, a leading light of bipartisanship was extinguished. As we embark upon a new political chapter in Washington, let us all do our best to rekindle that fire in his memory.

I thank Congressman CHABOT for yielding to me and for arranging for this Special Order in tribute to our dear friend, Steve LaTourette.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for her very kind remarks, and I think she is absolutely right. He was somebody who did work in truly a bipartisan way, and that is one of the things I think we will all remember him for as much or more than anything else.

I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE). He took Steve's place and is now the current Member who represents the 14th District of Ohio.

□ 2045

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHABOT very much for the opportunity to be here.

It is a pleasure to see in the gallery tonight Steve's loving family: his beautiful wife, Jennifer; Emma; Henry. And for those who are at home: Sarah, Sam, and the twins. You need to know one thing very clearly: your father loved you very much.

I had the pleasure of first meeting your father in 1988. I was appointed the prosecutor in Chardon in Geauga County. He was running for election in Lake County. His favorite saying was: no muss, no fuss. Don't worry about this, DAVIE. We have got this.

We worked together for many years, and I can tell you just a few things because I will be brief. Your father cared. He cared deeply about you, he cared deeply about his friends and his family. Whenever you would run into him, he would always ask about the family, the kids. If he knew someone was ill, he always inquired about how they were. He always inquired about people first. The job came later.

Secondly, he was loyal. He was somebody you could always count on. If he gave you his word, it was money in the bank. And the beauty of that, no matter what was going on in his life, he made you feel like you were the only one there and your issues were so important to him.

Believe me, he was competitive. Whether it was in a courtroom or in the Halls of Congress, he was one who would fight for you day in, day out. He cared deeply about his country and wanted only the best for it. That is why he fought for it.

But remember one thing: when it came to softball, your father was something else. We have our annual summer prosecutors' softball game and his team was, unfortunately, defeated 2 years in a row. Then he made it part of his hiring practice that anybody who was coming into the prosecutor's office also had to excel as a softball player because he was not going to let a loss like that occur a third year in a row on behalf of his beloved Lake County.

I know you have many fond memories of him. I do, too, but I think the most important part is to remember how much he loved his country and that he was one person you could truly call a legislative gentleman and a scholar.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man.

I was privileged to attend the memorial service in Falls Church. Mr. TIBERI delivered an awesome eulogy on that day. The synagogue was full. What was perhaps most remarkable was that there was almost an equal number of Republican Members and Democratic Members. That is indeed rare, and it is sad that it is rare in this day and age.

We all respected, admired, and loved Steve LaTourette because he was a great Member. Eighteen years of service is a good long time and he did wonderful things, I am sure, for Ohio.

We heard from MARCY KAPTUR about many of the projects he was involved in, but I want to reflect for a moment on a project that I think could have and should have benefited the entire United States. It was a huge lost opportunity, but he put body and soul into it in 2012, which turned out to be his last year in Congress.

Back then, there was a bipartisan commission appointed by President Obama, headed up by Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming and also by the former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles. It was called the Simpson-Bowles Commission. It was tasked with finding a bipartisan solution to our Nation's debt and deficit problems.

Back then, in 2012, we thought the debt was astronomical. It was \$15.6 trillion. Now, 4 years later, it is \$19.6 trillion. It is \$4 trillion higher, \$4 trillion of extra burden on future generations, including Steve's own children.

The irony of the Simpson-Bowles package is that it was about a \$4 trillion package to reduce our debt by about \$4 trillion. Steve had the courage to engineer a plan to bring it to the House floor. We got it to the House floor. We had, according to Steve's estimate, almost 100 commitments for support. We didn't expect to win, but we thought we would at least put up a good showing. When the votes were counted, we had a whopping 38 Members who were willing to stand up for bipartisan debt and deficit reduction. Thirty-eight Members out of a body of 435.

I am not faulting people who didn't vote for it that day, who reneged on their commitment to Steve. I am proud of those—sometimes called the brave 38—that stood by that commitment. There was plenty in that bill to hate. It is easy to criticize, but it is hard to perform. But Steve LaTourette was a rare Member who was interested in being brave to help his country, and he was willing to sacrifice to do it. I admire that. I admire that because it takes courage and I admire that because it is increasingly rare. Too many members are only looking to be popular and perpetuate their career instead of putting their country first.

Steve LaTourette put his country first. I hope that people will learn from his example. I hope they will follow his example. I hope they will do it in the wonderful, humorous style that he had where he could be serious as all get out, but also have that twinkle in his eye. He made friends, he made alliances, but he also built a bridge to the future for us all.

It is not too late to pay attention to deficit reduction. Sadly, it was largely ignored in this most recent Presidential campaign by both candidates, but there are plans now to make our

debt \$5 trillion and \$10 trillion worse even than it is today.

So we are not going in the direction of Simpson-Bowles or Cooper-LaTourette, as the legislation was called. We seem to be going in the opposite direction. I don't want interest on the Federal debt to be the largest, fastest-growing new Federal program, but that is the way it is headed, especially if interest rates tick up.

We have got a lot of work to do in this body. The next Congress we will have to tackle these Steve LaTourette problems that he was not willing to duck. I hope that this coming Congress will not duck them. He was a brave man and a good man and we need to learn from his example.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), who probably knew Steve as well as any other Member in this House did and was as close a friend of Steve's as I think anybody here.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ran into a guy back during the campaign in my district who was a prosecutor when Steve LaTourette was a prosecutor. He called him a prosecutor's prosecutor. I guess I shouldn't be surprised because when Steve LaTourette came to this Congress 6 years before I came, he became a legislator's legislator.

And to Henry and Emma and to his children at home: that corner back there became Steve's corner. It was a corner that we spent a lot of time in. Two of the people who spent a lot of time in that corner with your dad were MIKE SIMPSON, a Congressman from Idaho, and FRANK LOBIONDO from New Jersey. They apologize they could not be here tonight, but wanted me to tell you they miss him dearly, just as you do.

Part of what I am going to say, I said at the memorial, but I want to say it again. Steve was a unique guy and not a guy that I would have thought that I would have become friends with because he was a University of Michigan guy and I am an Ohio State guy. But despite that, we did become friends.

Not only did we become friends, my daughters had a tremendous amount of respect for him. When I asked them after Steve passed to give me a word or a phrase that reminded them of Steve, they came up with these four words or four sayings. One said, Funny. Steve could be brutally funny with a wicked sense of humor. Another said, Kind. Another said, Nice man. And, finally, the fourth said, Christlike.

I laughed at that inside because I knew Steve would laugh at that. But then I looked up Christlike and I got words that fit Steve to a T: gentle, kind, unselfish, generous. It was really an amazing thing and I never thought one of my daughters could see that in a guy, with the words that have been described by our colleagues who loved him. They loved him dearly because his heart was always in the right spot of trying to get things done. No matter who it came from or whose idea it was,

Steve was always about helping the little guy.

As MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio said, he not only saved jobs in Cleveland, he added to them. He helped Lake Erie. He was passionate about it. He was passionate about helping his constituents. Whether it was repairing a bridge or building a road, transportation and infrastructure issues were just amazingly important to him. He became an expert in the field. Whether it be something about a railroad or an airport, a seaport, Steve knew it. Trucking, he was on it.

I miss Steve back in that corner. He was an amazing counsel and a friend. He was a mentor. As my daughter said, he was one of the funniest, kindest, and yes, nicest and most Christlike human beings I have ever met.

Take comfort in knowing that the world is a better place because of your dad.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), from the Sixth Congressional District.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my colleague, STEVE CHABOT, for putting this on tonight and giving us this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the finest human beings that I personally ever met.

I was elected in 2010, and had no background in public service. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. There was so much to learn and so little time to learn it in. Fortunately, for me, Steve LaTourette was in our Ohio delegation.

It didn't take me long to figure out that, if you had a question on anything, Steve LaTourette was the guy to go to. Whether it was a legislative issue or a procedural issue or a political issue, Steve was a wealth of knowledge and was always willing to take time out of his personal schedule to sit down and have a conversation with you.

I don't think I ever met anyone while I served with him for two terms that didn't call Steve a friend, whether that was on the Republican side of the aisle or on the Democrat side of the aisle.

□ 2100

Steve had the uncanny ability to smile that smile, to brush away all of the dust of confusion, and get to the core of the matter. And when you walked away from a conversation with Steve, you thought: Well, why didn't I think of that?

I so much appreciated his guidance, his mentorship, and his friendship. I got to know the expertise and the professionalism of the man by watching him work.

But the thing that impressed me most about Steve LaTourette was the heart of the man because I saw him with his family. I saw the way he treated his wife and his children. And there was no mistaking that whatever was swirling around the House, you knew where Steve's priorities were. Steve's

priorities were at home, and I will always remember Steve for that.

People call him colleague, people call him former Member; Jennifer, I am just proud to call him friend. God bless you and the family, and thanks so much for letting me share a few moments.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHABOT for organizing this Special Order tonight so that we could pay tribute to our colleague, Steve LaTourette.

And Jennifer, I hope that you and the children are being comforted by the words that you are hearing here tonight.

I want to associate myself with all the comments that I have been able to hear tonight about Steve. He truly was a dedicated public servant and a champion for his constituents in Ohio for 18 years.

As we mourn the loss of Steve, we remember a Representative who stood for what is right and who fought on behalf of what makes America great.

I had the privilege of standing in the back corner a lot of times with Steve, and I can certainly testify to his quick-wittedness, his sense of humor, but also his ability to discern, again, the heart of the matter, as has been mentioned here.

I learned a great deal from Steve by listening to him. He was a man of great principle. And as I thought tonight about coming here and sharing a few comments to pay tribute to Steve, the poem by John Donne, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," kept coming back to me. So I am going to share that poem tonight because I do think that it epitomizes how we should think about Steve and his presence here and his absence.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

We are all diminished by the loss of Steve, but we are all the better for having known him, and I feel very blessed to have known and worked with him.

God bless you, Jennifer, and your family.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Dayton, Ohio (Mr. TURNER.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CHABOT for hosting this important opportunity for us to come to the House floor to speak about our good friend, Steve LaTourette.

Ohio has lost a great advocate and a public servant. And to Jennifer and to Mr. LaTourette's children, I want to add my voice and comments to those who have spoken before.

We have heard words such as bipartisan, mentor, substantive, inspirational and fighter, and I want to add my voice to underscore how those words were so important in this body and so important for the legacy of Steve LaTourette.

Bipartisan: As we all know, standing outside off the House Chamber is the Speaker's lobby where the press stands, and I was stopped many times by the press asking me this simple question. The press would approach and say that they had been speaking to the Members of the House and asking them who is the most bipartisan Member of the House, and frequently, on both sides, people would mention Steve LaTourette, and they would want to know how he did that and how he would accomplish that. Where is the work that would have a Member be identified as the most bipartisan?

But we all knew it to be true. Whether it be on substantive issues reaching across the aisle or fighting for what was right, Steve looked not at what side of the aisle people were on but what was the outcome, and everyone in this body saw it.

Mentor: Like BILL JOHNSON, I came here having not served as a legislator before. Steve LaTourette was willing to sit down, assist me in understanding how this body works, how an office works, how to make certain that you are successful, how Congress operates, and how a new Member can become an important part of it.

Substantive: Congressman PAT TIBERI was saying that this corner over here was Steve LaTourette's. But what is important about that corner, not just that Steve LaTourette was there but the line of people that would form to speak to Steve because they were seeking that bipartisan voice, his mentoring, but also his substantive comments.

Steve LaTourette was always the individual who knew more about what was happening on this floor across all subjects than anyone else. It wasn't just his committee or his bills. It was everything that was going on. He knew what was happening, and he had advice for everyone who would stop by to take it.

Inspirational: Steve always had a cause. When you would stop by and talk to him, it wasn't just what was happening on the House floor, it was what other issue needed to be addressed, what other issue needed to be righted, and he would call many people to the cause for that inspiration.

And he was a fighter. He was always on the right side. MARCY KAPTUR was speaking about the fight of BRAC. When Ohio was facing a BRAC, and we had many military facilities that were at risk, DFAS and NASA in Cleveland were facing significant cuts and effects to them. NASA would have been secondarily affected by the cuts in the Department of Defense.

Steve LaTourette singularly stood forward and went directly to the data

that the Department of Defense was using, substantively attacked it, substantively repackaged it, and won on the argument that these facilities needed not to be closed or impacted but they needed to be sustained. It was that fighter aspect, it was that substantive aspect that allowed him to be successful and allowed him to be a leader for many.

He will be strongly missed, but, by all those who had an opportunity to learn from him and his mentorship, he lives on in the inspiration he has provided to us in doing the right thing, work hard, substantively focus, and make certain that you work and honor all of the Members of the body of Congress, not just those who are of your party.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for pulling this Special Order together to give tribute and to really reflect on the remarkable life of Steve LaTourette.

For me, Steve was a role model. He was a teacher. He taught me so much about this institution, and he was a great friend. He was somebody who was fun to be around.

So many things that I could address but, in the interest of time, I will make two points. The first is that Steve and I shared a passion for seeing this body lead and to get our country back to a balanced budget, believing that this is not only an economic imperative, it is a moral imperative.

We have today Steve's family who are with us. He felt so deeply about his family. He loved Cleveland and his entire district, and he knew that this was an issue that we had to go all in to make happen.

That was certainly one of the main motivations why I retired from the Army after 29 years total, including 24 years in the regular Army, is to help move us back to a balanced budget. And working together over the past 6 years, inspired by Steve and others' work, we have closed the deficit by almost 70 percent, but we are not there. We are not back to a balanced budget, and we need to get back to a balanced budget. Steve helped lead the way.

Our first work together was actually a substitute amendment in 2011 brought to the floor here in the early morning hours in March of 2011, and I still remember watching Steve; didn't know him real well at the time but liked everything I saw. And I remember the debate, as it was moving from about 2:30 to 3 a.m., and the speaker right before Steve was, quite frankly, criticizing this substitute amendment that Steve and I had authored before the House and said: Well, we really don't have time to debate Mr. LaTourette's amendment, given this hour.

So when Mr. LaTourette—when Steve got to the floor and he was recognized, he said: Excuse me? We don't have time? Moments ago, we debated

cutting off the plumbing to the White House. I think we have got plenty of time to talk about issues that are very important to my constituents in Cleveland.

He gave an impassioned set of remarks that I think was very thoughtfully constructed about how we could guide ourselves back to a balanced budget, but do it in a way that also brings people together, that can do it in a way that we can gain bipartisan support for that.

He stood up for things that were very important for people in Cleveland like the arts, like NPR, and education. And I thought he gave a very summoning set of remarks, and I was proud to be associated with that.

Then a year later, as Mr. COOPER mentioned, I was one of those who joined Mr. LaTourette. We thought our numbers were more formidable, but we brought forward this bipartisan budget that, as Mr. COOPER pointed out, was a missed opportunity because, had we actually adopted that pro-growth, we were closing loopholes and lowering rates for Americans. And also fiscally conservative, we had smart, spending limits on the Federal departments, it was not sequestered. These were livable, sustainable levels that would ultimately get our discretionary spending under control, and it made a commitment to addressing the mandatory spending programs as well.

Had we actually enacted that budget, that Cooper-LaTourette budget today, we would be back at a balanced budget. Given the fact that we did overperform, we saw some Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac money come in, and we came in lower than we thought in terms of deficits. In fact, at one point here we got the deficit down to 352 B, which is still too high, but represented a 70 percent reduction from the nearly \$1.5 trillion that we were at in 2010.

That budget, I believe, ultimately, we are going to end up having to do that at some point anyway because staring at close to \$20 trillion of debt, we can no longer sit and wait on a Napoleonic-style battle that is going to ultimately clear the field and allow for one party to implement everything that they want on the budget.

We now are going to have unified government, and I am looking forward and excited about those prospects. But we still have issues where we need to get support. There are votes that are needed in the Senate, thresholds that have to be met. So, ultimately, I think that that Cooper-LaTourette budget will come back, and I hope that we can get this done for our Nation. I want to thank Steve for his leadership for that.

The second point was actually an interesting one, a little bit tough to go through, but I am better for it. This was also in 2011.

I saw Steve, and everybody knows the incredible sense of humor, the dry, rapier-like wit that Steve can have. I saw Steve one day, around noon or so, and he said: GIBSON, yesterday.

Yeah, Steve.

He goes: You were in the chair. You were acting Speaker.

Yeah, yeah, I was.

He goes: That jacket, don't ever wear that jacket again.

And I am thinking, okay, I was an Army guy, you know. For the time I was on Active Duty, okay, true, we would get up in the morning and say: I think I will wear something green today, you know. And that did make life easier. But I thought, you know, I have got pretty good taste in clothing.

□ 2115

So I went back to my staff, and I said: Steve LaTourette seemed pretty serious. He said, "Don't ever wear that jacket again."

They said: Well, why don't you do this? How do you feel about it?

I said that I kind of like it.

They said: Why don't you watch it? Why don't we bring it up?

So here is my staff all standing around the computer. We bring it up, and all of a sudden I said: Oh, man, what was I thinking?

I never wore that jacket again, Steve. I want you to know that. I am going to be donating this jacket to the Library of Congress in honor of Steve LaTourette's incredible taste and my lack thereof.

I do want to show it, though, one final time for the RECORD. Somehow, I think it just looks worse on TV than it does when I actually look at it.

Steve, thank you. God bless you. You were an incredible role model for me, a great friend, an amazing husband and father, and you are missed every day in these Halls. God bless you.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I say to Congressman GIBSON, as usual, Steve LaTourette was right, although I think it is a fine jacket.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding. I thank him for leading this hour this evening. It is entirely appropriate that we gather this evening and remember our friend, Steve LaTourette.

Steve was a friend, and you know what they say about friends in Washington, but Steve was a friend. I arrived here in 2003 and had never served in a legislative body before. I was on Steve's subcommittee, on one of the Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittees, and I will never forget how he ran his subcommittee. It was so even, so evenhanded, no partisanship. I try to carry that with me today, even now, 14 years later, in other subcommittees where the subject matter can get a little bit more contentious, just remembering the respect with which he treated Members of both sides of the dais. It was almost as if Steve didn't even have a dog in the fight, as we say back in Texas, but of course he did.

Steve would give you the shirt off his back. I got kind of put in a tight spot.

I needed a speaker for a transportation summit I was doing back in Texas—I mean in Denton, Texas, for crying out loud. Nobody in Ohio even knows where that is. This was in 2012. He had actually had his last election. He wasn't coming back. But I implored upon him: Steve, you have got such a great transportation mind, come and talk to the leaders in transportation in Denton, Texas. He didn't hesitate. He did it.

Steve taught me something that day. He got to Ronald Reagan Airport without his wallet. You actually can get on a flight in the United States of America without an ID. I guess it helps having been a subcommittee chairman on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and perhaps an appropriator in the transportation area. But I was so worried when I got word that Steve had gotten to the airport without his wallet that he wouldn't be able to make it down to Dallas/Fort Worth, but indeed he did. He gave a great presentation. People still talk about it today.

Steve did have that wit. He had that wit that we all experienced at one time or another. He had a way of really bringing you back to earth with his turn of phrase and with his humor.

Steve, we do miss you. The fact that there is a recalcitrant cancer out there that can still claim the lives that it does is something this body should focus on. That is something this body should work on. We can do that. We have had legislation, really, for a year and a half to try to improve and speed those discoveries. It is held up over in the Senate right now. I am still optimistic we can get it back over here to the House and get it done this year, get it done before this term ends. I would like to do that for Steve.

What a great friend. We miss you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CHABOT.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Ohio.

This is an opportunity that is bittersweet for me and bittersweet for the American people to be able to honor somebody that I got to know as a friend and never had a chance to serve with in this great institution, but somebody who cared about the issues that were important to governing this country and governing America.

America, the greatest country in the history of the world, has been served by public servants like Steve LaTourette for hundreds of years, but not many were like Steve LaTourette. Steve was somebody who focused on how we actually bring both sides of this institution together to move policies forward that are going to benefit every single American. His work on transportation and infrastructure was part of the reason why I sought a seat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee when I got to Congress in 2013.

Getting a chance to know Steve through his efforts at the Main Street Republican Committee and getting to know Steve through many friends that I got to know in the great State of Ohio proved to me what I had heard about Steve for the years before I got here: that he is somebody who actually wants to make America the greatest country in the history of the world.

Steve LaTourette was somebody whom I looked up to. Steve LaTourette was somebody that America should look up to.

Steve, I know you are looking down upon all of us, and especially your family, but I want you to know that what you did and the difference you made in this great institution will never be forgotten. You are an institution yourself, and your family and history will show all of us and this great country that.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I know that we are rapidly approaching that time in which our time has lapsed for this Special Order here, and I think it is fitting that we had Members from both sides of the aisle who came to give a testament to how much Congressman Steve LaTourette meant to this institution—to the House of Representatives—that he loved so much.

I know personally that Speaker John Boehner depended on Steve LaTourette. They were friends, but I know that Speaker Boehner relied upon Steve LaTourette in a lot of the tough decisions that one has to make as Speaker of the House of Representatives. That is something that wasn't necessarily known to the public, but I think it is important that his family know that—Jennifer, his wife; Emma, Henry, and all his children, his whole family. I know they know this, but it is important that they realize how important Congressman LaTourette was to this institution and how much he meant to us.

It was also mentioned by some of our colleagues the rapier wit that he had. I had heard the term "knuckleheads" before—I probably called people that before—and maybe was called that myself—but I had never heard the term "chuckleheads" before. That was something that Steve called some Members of this institution with whom he disagreed. I always thought that that was kind of humorous and something that will live in the annals of this institution.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention there were a number of Members on both sides of the aisle that wanted to be with us this evening but who had other things that they just couldn't get done with. We are back in session. We just, obviously, had a national election and this is the first time that Congress has been back in session since that election, so there are a lot of things happening all over the Hill this evening. I know that, for example, Congressman JIM RENACCI and Congressman STEVE STIVERS, among others, have put written speeches in the RECORD which will appear along with

the speeches that we have heard here this evening.

Let me just conclude by letting the family know, Jennifer and the kids, that Steve LaTourette will be long remembered in this institution. He will really be missed. He is one who really made a difference, and he is somebody that I am honored to say that I was able to serve in the United States House of Representatives with, our friend, our colleague, Congressman Steve LaTourette.

God bless him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dear friend and highly respected colleague, the Honorable Steve LaTourette. He left us too soon, and will never be forgotten.

It is an honor for me to speak about Steve. To the LaTourette Family—Sara, Scott, Grandson Matthew, Emma, Henry, and Jennifer—we share in your great sorrow for someone we all knew and loved. Your brother, your father, your husband, and our friend and colleague brought us joy.

Yesterday I was on a plane flying to Washington, D.C. I sat next to a nice, young woman. We exchanged pleasantries and then kept to ourselves. I started to rework my remarks for today, and I was going at it pretty intensely—write, scratch, write—and at one point, I stopped, and the woman asked me what I was working on so hard. I told her it was a eulogy for a good friend's funeral, and that I had never delivered a eulogy before. She said she was sorry to hear of my loss.

I went back to writing and she went back to her iPad. Several minutes later, I paused again to look out the window. At that point, I could feel this overwhelming emotion welling up inside of me. I had no outward sign of emotion—no tears, no noise—just strong internal emotion; that lump in your throat. At that point, without saying a word, the young woman put her hand on my shoulder and squeezed it a few times. I turned to her and said thanks. She told me it would be okay.

I turned to look out the window again and thought to myself, "that must have been Steve's doing,"—a simple act of kindness to reassure a friend. I was 30,000 feet in the air, closer to Heaven, where I know Steve is but the more I thought about it, I changed my conclusion. And it brought a smile to my face. The same smile Steve always brought to my face. It wasn't that I was close to Heaven and that Steve's spirit was with me. It was because I was on a mode of transportation. It wouldn't have mattered which mode—plane, train, car, bus, or boat—Steve's spirit would have been with me because we shared that interest and passion. Whenever I work on these issues, Steve's spirit will always be with me.

Steve was a great friend, a dear friend. But he was also a mentor to me, both in Congress and in life. He was bright, compassionate, and hardworking. He was someone you could count on, and he was funny. That humor often carried the day, in good times, intense times, and bad times. He could always light up the room with his wit and humor.

I first learned about Steve from my father, who served with Steve. During my first term in Congress in 2001, I asked my father which members I could look to for good, sound ad-

vice. He gave me four to five names but the first name was Steve LaTourette. He said, "You can trust Steve. You may not always agree on the issue but he will always shoot straight."

Steve was a member's member. He cared about the people he worked with and the institution. He also cared deeply about finding solutions, which always had him working in a bipartisan manner. He would reach across the aisle to find a path forward.

My father gave me a piece of advice for serving in Congress: You must learn the rules of the institution, become an expert on an issue, and keep your word. Steve excelled at all three.

First, learn the rules. Few if any members knew the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives and Congress better than Steve. You could watch him in action when he was in the chair, presiding over the chamber during debate. He was in the chair frequently, and especially when a bill or debate was expected to be challenging. Steve was given those assignments because his knowledge of the rules. He was always able to act quickly and forcefully because of his knowledge.

Second, become an expert on an issue. Steve demonstrated his expertise on financial services issues time and time again. In debate or verbal combat with another highly intelligent legislator, Barney Frank, it was always educational and insightful. Few could go toe-to-toe with Barney but Steve was one. And on transportation and infrastructure issues, Steve's knowledge was always impressive. It didn't matter the mode of transportation, whether it was highway transit, railroad, aviation, maritime, or even public buildings, Steve knew his stuff. Transportation and infrastructure issues were where his heart really was. That was fortunate for me because he taught me so much.

Finally, keep your word. Steve's word was always solid. Regardless of if you were on the same side of an issue or he opposed you, you could count on his word. But if you opposed him, it could be a very, very long day. In Congress, your word is critical to success. It is the coin of the realm, and Steve LaTourette's word was gold.

As I thought about what to say today, I thought what I might have said to Steve if we had exchanged places on the last day I saw him—me in bed and he by my bedside. It was the Friday before the GOP Convention in his beloved Cleveland. What came to me was the final scene from one of my favorite movies, *The Outsiders*. Johnny was in a hospital and beside was his friend, Ponyboy. Throughout the movie, they referred to the Robert Frost poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay." At that point in the movie, Johnny whispers into his friend's ear, "Stay gold, Ponyboy . . . stay gold." Steve LaTourette was gold and will forever be gold.

Steve, we love you, and you will be missed, my friend.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Ohioans and colleagues in recognizing the life and work of Steve LaTourette, a good friend and an outstanding public servant.

Steve served nine terms in Congress. Though they say Washington changes you, he remained extremely thoughtful and completely authentic throughout his tenure. And regardless of the circumstances, Steve always did what he thought was the right thing.

He came to Congress after serving as a public defender and Lake County prosecutor.

He knew the law inside and out and could argue a point passionately, but he also had a great sense of humor.

In fact, during his first term, he famously delivered a speech written by humorist Dave Barry on the House floor, poking fun at his chosen profession: "The vast majority of lawyers . . ." he read ". . . are responsible professionals as well as, in many ways, human beings."

Steve LaTourette was a great human being. Though Cancer took him away from us way too soon, he leaves a legacy of service that has had a tremendous impact on his family, his colleagues, and especially, for Northeast Ohio.

My thoughts and prayers are with Jennifer and the entire LaTourette family. I know Steve was looking down proudly as his daughter Sarah was elected to a leadership position in the Ohio House of Representatives this month. There is no question that Steve lives on through his children and through each one of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and service of United States Congressman Steve LaTourette. As a colleague, Congressman LaTourette was many things at once—formidable, smart, and considerate. Whatever the context, whether an argument or an agreement, he remained open-minded and friendly, always paying attention to his constituents and their needs, while adapting in a changing political climate, and remaining keenly himself. This delicate balancing act is why Steve was so admired and will remain forever respected. It is a shame that the horrific disease of pancreatic cancer cut his life short, but that fact will never outweigh the richness of his life.

Congressman LaTourette was an Ohio man through and through. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he returned to the state he loved to study law at Cleveland-State University. His life-long career in politics began when he was elected County Prosecutor of Lake County, Ohio. In this capacity, he prosecuted the famous Kirtland mass murders. His desire to serve urged him to run for and win a seat in Congress representing his 19th Congressional District in 1994.

Congressman LaTourette's career spanned from 1995 until 2013, when he retired. In this time, he was known as a strong presence on the House Appropriations Committee. But more than anything else, he was known as a bright and independent mind that was committed to serving his constituents in Ohio. I was sad to see him retire, and now I am sad to see him leave this earth.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman LaTourette was a great United States Representative but an ever better man. May this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show he will be forever loved and never forgotten.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Congressman Steve LaTourette from Ohio who passed away in August.

I had the pleasure of serving with Steve throughout his time in the House and worked closely with him while we both sat on the Transportation Committee. Steve was a great legislator, and I admired his relentless dedication to cutting through the gridlock that often plagues D.C.

After leaving the House, Steve continued to be a voice of reason as he led the Republican Main Street Partnership. Steve's profound understanding of Congress as an institution and the dynamics we face as members will be missed.

Steve was a fine soul. He was never without a smile on his face, and I always enjoyed his rapier wit. I am glad to have counted him a friend.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the late Congressman Steven LaTourette. Congressman LaTourette was a dedicated public servant and talented legislator . . . who understood the value of compromise and the importance of finding common ground.

During his eighteen years serving the people of Ohio in the House of Representatives . . . Congressman LaTourette carried himself with humor . . . and always stayed true to who he was. He was a friend to many . . . and always was willing to reach across the aisle to get things done on behalf of his constituents.

We should all follow the example of principled legislators like Congressman LaTourette.

I wish his family well during this difficult time . . . and am grateful to have the opportunity to honor his legacy with my fellow colleagues.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I ask for Unanimous Consent to address the House for the purpose of a one-minute speech to honor the life of former Ohio Representative Steve LaTourette—who we lost too soon earlier this year.

Steve LaTourette served this body well for 18 years and was known around the People's House as someone who worked hard, knew the rules of this institution, and always had a hand reaching across the aisle because he was dedicated to governing, and getting things done. Steve was also well-renowned for his quick wit. But most of all, Steve was a humble public servant, dedicated to the craft of governing. He loved the nitty gritty of getting common-sense legislation through the pipeline and into law.

Now, most folks know that I am a passionate Michigan Wolverine fan, and even though Steve hailed from Ohio, he was a pretty smart guy evidenced by his degree from the University of Michigan. Steve and I were buddies and caught many games together through the years in Ann Arbor. In fact, Steve was one of my very dear friends. When Steve first got elected in 1994, we sensed a kindred spirit in one another and quickly teamed up on a host of issues important to our Midwest communities.

His passionate work on behalf of the Great Lakes and environmental issues was particularly impressive.

And the Republican Main Street Partnership was better for his tireless leadership and advocacy.

He knew his neck of the woods in Ohio better than anyone, and worked hard as a fearless advocate for their needs. And with Steve, you always knew where you stood. He was a straight shooter, and no matter how difficult the topic, he was always honest.

This body lost a great man when he retired. His wife Jennifer, and his six children, lost a great man with his untimely passing.

Today, we stand together in remembering Steve LaTourette. We remember his passion, his grace, his humor, and his mantra of bipar-

tisanship that—now more than ever—should be part of the fabric of this great institution.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, October 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
*Chairman,
Committee on House Administration.*

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS

(H. Res. 676)

July 1–September 30, 2014	\$0.00
October 1–December 31, 2014	42,875.00
January 1–March 31, 2015	50,000.00
April 1, 2015–June 30, 2015	29,915.00
July 1–September 30, 2015	21,000.00
October 1–December 31, 2015	45,707.67
January 1–March 31, 2016	15,124.00
April 1–June 30, 2016	0.00
July 1–September 30, 2016	0.00
Total:	\$204,621.67

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

July 6, 2016:

H.R. 3114. An Act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

July 15, 2016:

H.R. 636. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3766. An Act to direct the President to establish guidelines for covered United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4372. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Rochester Street, Bergen, New York, as the Barry G. Miller Post Office.

H.R. 4960. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 N Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the "Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building".

July 22, 2016:

H.R. 4875. An Act to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5588. An Act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and in-

demnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

July 29, 2016:

H.R. 2607. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7802 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, New York, as the "Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building".

H.R. 3700. An Act to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing Programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3931. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the "Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office".

H.R. 3953. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4122 Madison Street, Elfers, Florida, as the "Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 4010. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Ed Pastor Post Office".

H.R. 4425. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 East Powerhouse Road in Collegeville, Minnesota, as the "Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office".

H.R. 4747. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6691 Church Street in Riverdale, Georgia, as the "Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building".

H.R. 4761. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

H.R. 4777. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1301 Alabama Avenue in Selma, Alabama as the "Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building".

H.R. 4877. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, as the "LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building".

H.R. 4904. An Act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4925. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 West Main Cross Street, in Findlay, Ohio, as the "Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4975. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building".

H.R. 4987. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office".

H.R. 5028. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building".

H.R. 5722. An Act to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

September 23, 2016:

H.R. 3969. An Act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Laughlin, Nevada, as the "Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Dean VA Clinic".

September 29, 2016:

H.R. 2615. An Act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.